



1960

# ANNUAL REPORT

on the

## PUBLIC HEALTH

of the

## BOROUGH OF WISBECH

and

## WISBECH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

by

H. L. GROOM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., *Medical Officer of Health*

D. BROOK, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.INST.P.C., *Senior Public Health Inspector*



# PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR: Councillor W. Allen, J.P.

CHAIRMAN: Alderman E. H. Miller

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Councillor E. N. Rigg

MEMBERS: Alderman J. E. Sandall

Councillor S. A. Baker

Councillor W. R. Bumfrey

Councillor M. C. Burton (Mrs.)

Councillor G. G. J. Gibbs

Councillor B. M. Osborn (Mrs.)

Councillor H. Potter

Councillor L. H. Rands

Councillor C. Shaw

Councillor C. A. E. Woolnough

## OFFICERS

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH: Dr. H. L. Groom, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,  
"Hillcroft", Hill Street, Wisbech

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR: D. Brook, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.INST.P.C.  
Exchange Square, Wisbech

*Certificate of the Royal Society of Health and  
Public Health Inspectors Joint Examination Board  
Cert. Inspector of Meat and Food, Royal Society of  
Health  
Smoke Inspector's Diploma, Royal Society of Health  
Testamur Institute of Public Cleansing*

DEPUTY SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR: M. A. Gregory, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.  
*Certificate of the Royal Society of Health and  
Public Health Inspectors Joint Examination Board  
Cert. Inspector of Meat and Food, Royal Society of  
Health  
Cert. Sanitary Science as applied to Public Works  
and Buildings, Royal Society of Health*

CLERKS: Mrs. B. Kerridge

Miss B. Godfrey



# Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1960

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Wisbech

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting to you my report on the general health of the Borough for the past year, ending 31st December, 1960.

## GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area 4,666 acres.  
Estimated resident population mid-1960, 17,170  
Sum realised by a penny rate, £1,110  
Number of inhabited houses, about 5,495  
Rateable value, £277,448

LIVE BIRTHS.	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate .....	301	163	138
Illegitimate .....	19	12	7
Birth rate per thousand of the estimated resident population mid-1960, 18.63			

STILL BIRTHS.	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate .....	14	9	5
Illegitimate .....	1	1	0
Rate per thousand total (live and still) births, 47.46			

DEATHS .....	189	104	85
Death rate per thousand of the estimated average population, 11.07			

## DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES:—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal sepsis .....	0	0
Other puerperal causes .....	0	0

## DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE:—

All infants per 1,000 live births .....	34.37
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	33.22
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....	52.63
Deaths from cancer (all ages) .....	24
Deaths from measles (all ages) .....	0
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages) .....	0
Deaths from diarrhoea (under two years of age) .....	0
Deaths from motor vehicle accidents .....	2
Deaths from lung cancer .....	3

The comparable figures for towns of approximately the same size are as follows:—

Birth rate per 1,000 .....	17.1
Death rate per 1,000 .....	11.5
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age .....	21.7

In the Borough there is a School Clinic, a Tubercular Clinic, two General Hospitals, a Hospital for chronic sick and aged female patients, and an Orthopaedic Clinic held twice weekly at the North Cambs. Hospital. Infectious Diseases are accommodated at Peterborough and East Dereham Isolation Hospitals

Excellent Motor Ambulance facilities are available, whilst Diphtheria Antitoxin and Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are provided when necessary.

## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The duties connected with this are carried out by the M.O.H. who is a part time officer, the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, the Borough Senior and Deputy Senior Public Health Inspectors, all full-time officers, together with those of the Council's employees who are specially needed for sanitary work.

## INFANT AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Infant and Child Welfare Clinic in Norwich Road is held weekly on Friday afternoons and is well attended.

### WELFARE ATTENDANCES FOR 1960

Number of children who attended during year	487
Number of children who attended for the first time, and who at their first attendance were under one year .....	180
Number of children attending born in 1959 ...	152
Number of children attending born 1955-58 ...	155
Total number of attendances made by children during the year:—	
1. Under 1 year of age .....	1791
2. 1 year of age but under 2 years .....	1947
3. 2 years of age but under 5 years .....	1294
Total	5032

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Number of children under the age of 5 years who have completed a full course of immunisation against Diphtheria during year	143
Between the ages of 5-14 years .....	31
Under 1 year .....	65

HOUSING.

FUTURE REQUIREMENTS.

a. Applicants on waiting list at end of year	302
b. Unfit houses requiring replacement .....	272
c. Houses to be demolished for redevelopment (not included in (b) above) .....	181

BUILDING.

HOUSES COMPLETED IN 1960:—

Wisbech Corporation .....	Nil
Private Enterprise .....	45
Total post war houses completed .....	1108

WORK IN HAND AT END OF YEAR:—

Wisbech Corporation .....	22
Private Enterprise .....	21

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

	Total cases Notified	Deaths
Smallpox .....	0	0
Scarlet fever .....	26	0
Diphtheria .....	1*	0
* not confirmed		
Pneumonia .....	2	22
Erysipelas .....	0	0
Puerperal pyrexia .....	1	0
Enteric fever .....	0	0
Measles .....	100	0
Acute Encephalitis .....	0	0
Whooping Cough .....	15	0
Paratyphoid fever .....	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	1	0
Acute poliomyelitis .....	0	0
Food poisoning .....	2	0
Dysentery .....	0	0

NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS.

Age periods	New cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and over	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Very faithfully yours,

H. LESLIE GROOM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.  
Medical Officer of Health.



# Report of the Senior Public Health Inspector for the Year 1960

Public Health Department,  
Exchange Square, Wisbech.

To the Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Wisbech

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Fourth Annual Report, in which is to be found an outline of the year's work together with comments on specific services as requested by the Minister of Health.

The day to day work which arose from meat inspection, supervision of sewer connections and complaints associated with changes and development in the industrial field, entailed considerable work outside normal office hours. Fruit and vegetable merchants have turned over the use of their premises to food preparation, adding to the list of essential food hygiene visits.

Slum clearance continued during the year despite the fact that no new Council houses were completed in 1960. It is interesting to examine the figures set out in the Housing Section and to imagine the progress which could be made when a regular supply of new houses becomes available.

The introduction would be incomplete without reference to the final elimination of all insanitary "dwellings" formerly located in Green Lane and Stow Lane. Mr. Gregory, the Deputy Senior Public Health Inspector, must be complimented upon his tenacity and tolerance, yes, and kindness with which he handled the situations.

Decontrolled dwelling-houses, so created by new tenancies in property not exceeding £30 rateable value, are now increasing in number. One public health problem is likely to arise in many of these cases, as experience has brought to light in the past months. Following complaints concerning nuisances and disrepair, notices have been served on the owners of the property. Instances have arisen where the immediate reaction of the owner has been to write to the tenant demanding him either to arrange for the repairs to be done and paid for by the tenant or otherwise accept notice to quit. In any case the owner of a decontrolled house may serve notice to quit for any reason, and one may imagine tenants of such property may become reluctant to complain to the local authority, so that the property will deteriorate. An undue increase in the number of eviction orders will only serve to add a further burden to the heavy housing needs of the Borough.

The increased work has been considered by the appropriate Committees and authorisation given to an increase of one public health inspector within the establishment. It is hoped to fill the vacancy early in 1961, after an abortive attempt in December 1960 when advertised within the salary of the basic grade.

I wish to record my thanks to the staff for their constant effort to serve the people, whose environment must be guarded as a first duty. The Public Health Committee has shown keen interest in their duties and their guidance has been appreciated.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

D. BROOK, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.C.,

*Senior Public Health Inspector.*

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF DISTRICT		HOUSING ACTS.	
PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.		Inspected and Recorded .....	255
		Housing Applications .....	41
		Improvement Grants .....	138
Complaints:—		FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.	
Housing .....	757	Slaughterhouses .....	1559
Other .....	512	Knackers Yards .....	4
Drainage inspected and tested .....	175	Food Hygiene Visits .....	100
Cesspools and Sewer Connections .....	422	Food Preparation Premises .....	19
Caravans .....	93	Ice Cream Premises .....	16
Filthy and Verminous Premises .....	12	Dairy Premises .....	1
Infectious Disease .....	9	Licensed Premises .....	1
Common Lodging Houses .....	14	Market Stalls .....	32
Sanitary Improvements .....	324	Unsound Food Visits .....	33



RENT ACT.		
Inspections .....	58	
WATER SUPPLY.		
Inspections .....	1	
SHOPS ACT.		
Inspections .....	18	
FACTORY ACT.		
Inspections .....	66	
PET ANIMALS ACT.		
Inspections .....	1	
CLEAN AIR ACT.		
Inspections and Observations .....	41	
RODENT CONTROL.		
Inspections .....	66	
AGRICULTURAL (SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE) ACT.		
Inspections .....	3	
LITTER ACT.		
Inspections .....	10	
PORT HEALTH AREA.		
Inspections .....	8	

### WATER SUPPLY

The Borough of Wisbech is a constituent authority of the Wisbech and District Water Board and a main water supply is available to almost every dwelling-house in the Borough.

The supply has always been satisfactory in quality after initial chemical treatment at the source.

Increasing domestic and industrial demands on the existing main supply will soon create a problem. At peak periods of demand there has been a falling off of pressure and this indicates the limit of the present supply as regards quantity and the existing distribution system.

The water is not liable to have any plumbo-solvent action and no contamination has occurred which called for special action.

In the sewered areas of the Borough, 177 houses rely on drawing their water supply from outside standpipes. All these houses are contained in slum clearance or re-development areas due to be demolished within the next five years. It is estimated that another 177 houses use external standpipes, which are located in the rural outskirts of the Borough beyond the limits of proposed sewerage facilities. One may readily then calculate that approximately 1,300 people living in 354 houses must

use outside standpipes and approximately 15,800 people living in the remaining 5,141 houses can rely on a direct inside water supply.

### EXAMINATION OF WATER SUPPLY.

The Borough of Wisbech is supplied with water from the Wisbech and District Water Board and the Manager has made available regular monthly summaries of routine bacteriological samples taken in the Borough.

	<i>Samples submitted</i>	<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>
Water Board:—			
Chemical .....	42	42	Nil
Bacteriological ...	263	263	Nil
Public Health Dept.:—			
Bacteriological .....	4	4	Nil

### TYPICAL CHEMICAL ANALYSIS:

TAP WATER 30/12/60. 10.30 a.m.

### PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Appearance .....	Clear and Bright
Turbidity .....	Nil
Colour .....	Nil
ph. ....	7.1
Odour .....	Nil
Taste .....	Nil

### CHEMICAL ANALYSIS:

(expressed as parts per mil.)

Free CO <sub>2</sub> .....	22
Oxygen dissolved .....	Not examined
Oxygen absorbed (3hrs. at 37°C) .....	0.16
Nitrogen Ammoniacal .....	Nil
„ Albuminoid .....	0.009
„ Nitrate .....	8.75
„ Nitrite .....	Nil
Alkalinity .....	200
Hardness Carbonate .....	200
Hardness Non-Carbonate .....	85
Hardness Total .....	285
Free Chlorine .....	0.05
Total Solids (180°C) .....	385
Aluminium (Al) .....	Nil
Calcium (Ca) .....	111.3
Iron (Fe) .....	0.008
Magnesium (Mg) .....	2.61
Manganese (Mn) .....	Nil
Lead (Pb) .....	Nil
Sodium (Na) .....	Not examined
Zinc (Zn) .....	Nil
Silica (SiO <sub>2</sub> ) .....	6.0
Sulphate (S.O. <sub>4</sub> ) .....	50.9
Carbonate (CO <sub>3</sub> ) .....	120
Chloride (Cl) .....	35
Fluoride (F) .....	0.07



## GENERAL REMARKS.

The above results indicate a water pure and wholesome in character. It is suitable both chemically and bacteriologically as a public supply for drinking and domestic purposes.

## DETAILS OF EXTENSIONS TO MAINS CARRIED OUT IN THE BOROUGH DURING THE YEAR 1960.

### WISBECH IMPROVEMENT SCHEME :

Scheme NB3	Chapel Road to Town Bridge ...	450 yds 6"	S.I.
2 Fire Hydrants fixed	.....	4 yds 3"	C.I.
Scheme NB4	Harecroft Road ...	582 yds 6"	C.I.
1 Fire Hydrant fixed			
Scheme NB5	Barton Road .....	1014 yds 4"	C.I.
3 Fire Hydrants fixed			
Scheme NB6	Magazine Lane ...	292 yds 4"	A.C.
Isle of Ely Horticultural Institute...		588 yds 4"	S.I.
1 Fire Hydrant fixed			
Westfield Road, Walton Road .....		108 yds 3"	C.I.
Mount Drive, 4th Avenue .....		71 yds 3"	C.I.
Mount Drive 8th Ave. Hous. Site ...		60 yds 3"	C.I.
1 Fire Hydrant fixed			
Weasenham Lane,			
Liquid Fertilisers Ltd., ...		66 yds 4"	C.I.
Smedley's Limited, Lynn Road .....		534 yds 6"	C.I.
1 Fire Hydrant fixed .....		12 yds 4"	C.I.
Housing Site, Mount Pleasant Rd ...		22 yds 3"	C.I.

TOTAL MAIN LAID — 3,803 yards

New connections made in the Borough during the year 1960 — 63

## SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

Progress continued to conclude the task of ensuring the provision of proper flush toilets, inside piped water supplies and wash-up sinks.

Houses provided with a supply of wholesome water in pipes in the house .....	30
Houses provided with internal wash-up sink .....	92
Houses provided with flushing cisterns to W.C's.	87
Houses provided with proper dustbins .....	17

With the authority of the Public Health Committee, Statutory Notices were served as follows:—

Requiring houses to be provided with a supply of wholesome water in pipes in the house .....	4
Requiring houses to be provided with an internal wash-up sink and necessary drainage .....	7
Requiring the provision of flushing cisterns to W.C's. ....	13

At one house it was found that there was no drainage provided to the kitchen sink although a sewer was readily available. Waste water was received into a pail and emptied via a yard gully. The owner/occupier appealed to the Magistrates Court against the Statutory Notice served under the Public Health Act, 1936, Section 39, requiring the provision of a trapped sink waste pipe to discharge over an outside gully connected to the drainage system. The appeal was dismissed.

## SEWERAGE

Foul and surface water sewers were completed in the Money Bank Area. Seven of the 173 houses in this area remain to be connected to the sewer. Statutory Notices have been served on the owners of the five properties to eliminate the cesspools which permit their contents to soak away into the sub-soil water.

In other sewered areas of the Borough 117 of the 156 cesspools were abolished, making a total of 283 cesspools eliminated during 1960.

Despite this progress complaints continue to be received of nuisances arising from:—

- (a) Overflowing cesspools.
- (b) The discharge of cesspool contents into sewer manholes.
- (c) The delay (often over 3 weeks in wet months) between the time an order has been placed and the actual emptying of a cesspool.

Contributory factors known to aggravate this position are —

- (a) Ground water gaining access through the pervious cesspool walls, so that in fact the installation is continually full.
- (b) the two cesspool emptying vehicles are old, and involve frequent mechanical breakdowns.
- (c) Considerable large areas of the Borough are still without sewers.

During the year approval was given under the Building Byelaws for the building of 14 new cesspools in areas where no sewer was available.

The provision of sewer extensions remains an urgent public health need. It is anticipated that a contract may be signed during 1961 to commence work to provide new sewers in Canal Road, Elm High Road, Elm Low Road, Halfpenny Lane, New Drove, Oldfield Lane, Ramnoth Road (between railway crossing and Elm High Road), Weasenham Lane and Westmead Avenue.

A scheme embracing extensions of sewers in the area North-West of the River has still to be prepared. Sewers are urgently required to serve Barton Road, Harecroft Road, Magazine Close, Magazine Lane, North Brink and Summerfield Close.

## SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Sewage pumped for disposal to a farm at Walpole Marsh. The pumps and mains can normally cope with



dry-weather flow of sewage except at peak periods, and it is discharged to open lagoons for drying. The farm comprises 217 acres, of which 180 acres can be flooded. In size the acreage is reasonably adequate for the present discharge but the system is antiquated and with a vast acreage flooded by crude sewage one must say that this cannot be regarded as satisfactory from the public health aspect.

Any surcharge of sewage flows to storm water settlement tanks. The sludge from these being piped to sludge drying lagoons and the effluent becomes discharged into a tidal portion of the River Nene. The limited capacity of the pumps and mains to the sewage farm results in crude sewage finding its way to the storm water system during peak periods and also following rainfall.

### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A regular weekly collection of household refuse has been maintained throughout the year. There is one comment required to bring out the difficulties which arise on days immediately following Bank Holidays and at times when one of the purpose made collection vehicles is broken down. During these periods supplementary collections are made in open trailers resulting in a nuisance from dust, spilled refuse and litter.

Refuse disposal has taken the form of tipping ; control has not been possible because of lack of mechanical handling machinery on the site. There have been exploratory moves towards seeking additional tipping space for future years. No site is available within the Borough and the future disposal points will entail long journeys into the country. This problem is also common to neighbouring authorities and consideration is being given to a combined scheme of disposal by controlled tipping for use by Wisbech Borough, Marshland and Wisbech Rural District Councils.

### PERSONAL CLEANSING

No cleansing station is available within the Borough and this need was made apparent during the time that special efforts were being made during 1960 to deal with persons displaced from the shacks in Green Lane and Stow Lane. Nevertheless the Borough of King's Lynn has readily made available facilities set up by their Health Department. For the future it is hoped that a cleansing station may be jointly established by Wisbech Borough and the Isle of Ely County Council, by inclusion in a new building shortly to be planned by the County Council. There are no public wash-houses available in the Borough.

### PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

On several occasions such persons have been referred to the Welfare Department, Isle of Ely County Council. The Welfare Officer has usually offered accommodation

either at Ely or Holbeach. The displaced persons have never been happy to anticipate a journey and sojourn away from Wisbech so that such offers of accommodation have been rejected.

### COMMON LODGING HOUSES

A special review was taken of these premises to give a picture for the future. No. 16 Canal Row a less frequented Georgian type house must cease to operate during 1961. The owners cannot afford to effect the necessary repairs and the building will be subject to Demolition Order procedure. It is fair comment to mention that although originally registered for 23 persons, no more than 6-10 persons have used the premises.

The Harp Inn is registered for 22 lodgers and is well organised, although the space allowed for lodgers will be reduced when remedial work is carried out to make the premises comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations to allow the tenant more space apart from the public bar for personal domestic purposes. The beds are usually all occupied by the same old aged pensioners, so that apart from deaths and removals to hospital there is no constant change of itinerants. Discussions with the owners (a brewery) indicate that there is a limit to the future of these premises as a Common Lodging House so due notice of this fact has been passed to the Welfare Authority.

### PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

The Borough Council own and operate at Crabmarsh an Open Air Swimming Pool, 132' 6" long x 30' wide x 6' 6" at deep end and 3' 6" at shallow end, giving a capacity of 120,000 gallons.

The source of water used in the Bath is the main supply of the Wisbech and District Water Board. The treatment is by a Bell Bros. bath filtration plant using soda and alumina prior to filtration and chlorination. The water in the baths is changed every 6 hours.

Four samples of water for bacteriological examination were satisfactory.

### FOOD INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION

During the year the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960 came into force.

The principle changes are:—

- (a) Dealers licences will in future be issued by Food and Drugs authorities and will be valid for five years.
- (b) Alterations have been made in the prescribed tests for designated milks.

Although these changes are principally to simplify administration, I am concerned at the continued transfer of public health functions from the local authority to the food and drugs authority, especially where the latter authority does not employ a qualified Public Health Inspector.



## REGISTRATION AND LICENSING.

There are 33 names on the Register of Distributors of Milk and 4 premises registered as Dairies.

At the end of the year there were licensed:—

15 Dealers and 4 Supplementary Licences for the sale of "Pasteurised" Milk.

8 Dealers and 6 Supplementary Licences for the sale of "Tuberculin Tested" Milk.

21 Dealers and 4 Supplementary Licences for the sale of "Sterilised" Milk.

## BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

13 samples of milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge for examination.

Type of Milk	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphate Test		Turbidity Test		Bacteriological Test	
	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.
Tuberculin Tested	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pasteurised	5	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
T.T. Past.	4	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Sterilised	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Total	10	—	9	—	3	—	1	—

## SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS AND MEAT INSPECTION

The seven establishments continued to operate during the year. The duties of meat inspection take up an appreciable amount of time, including approximately six hours each week in the evenings, together with each Monday of a National Holiday and certain Sundays. It is interesting to note that the Ministry of Agriculture's Graders refuse to grade meat on Sundays, although that same Ministry will not support local authorities who wish to abolish meat inspection on Sundays.

The meat condemnations reflect the programme of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to include this area within the zone for the Eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis. Cysticercosis increased by 50% ; this cyst found in beef may produce tapeworms in humans. Its continued incidence indicates unsatisfactory disposal of human excreta on to farm land.

## MEAT (STAINING & STERILISATION) REGULATIONS, 1960.

The above Regulations came into operation on the 1st November, 1960 and they require all butchers meat and imported meat which is unfit for human consumption to be sterilised, and all knacker meat to be stained or sterilised before entering the chain of distribution.

There are no facilities for sterilisation of such meat in the slaughterhouses in the Borough and arrangements have been made with two by-products firms for the meat

which is unfit for human consumption to be stained and removed in locked containers clearly marked "condemned meat", to premises in Boston and March where it is sterilised by steam under pressure.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1958—REPORT ON SLAUGHTERHOUSE FACILITIES.

Under Section 3 (1) of the above Act each local authority was required to review and, after consultation with such organisations as appear to the authority to represent the interests concerned, to report to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on:—

- the existing and probable future requirements of their district for slaughterhouse facilities having regard to the needs of both persons requiring the use of such facilities, and of other persons ; and
- the slaughterhouse facilities which are, or are likely to become available to meet those requirements.

This report, which was published and submitted to the Minister during the year, is briefly summarised as follows:—

## CLASSIFICATION OF SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The seven existing licensed slaughterhouses within the Borough can be classified as follows:—

- Premises which already comply with all the requirements of the construction regulations — NIL.
- Premises in use which the authority expect to comply by the recommended date — TWO (provided planning permission is obtained in respect of one — this has been refused and an appeal was heard on the 14th July, 1960).
- Premises in use which the authority expect not to comply by the recommended date — FIVE.
- Premises not in use but for which a licence is in force or was in force at some time during the 12 months preceding the submission of the report — NIL.
- Outstanding applications for new slaughterhouse licenses — ONE.

The premises included in Group (iii) above cannot be brought to comply by the recommended date for the following reasons:—

- the layout of the premises does not provide adequate space and facilities for the efficient performance of meat inspection and to permit the functioning of all operations under hygienic conditions.
- the accommodation does not include suitable and sufficient accommodation for hanging meat, cleaning stomachs and intestines, isolation of meat requiring further examination by the meat inspector, the retention of meat rejected as unfit for human consumption and for persons working in the slaughterhouse to change their clothes.



- (c) the premises are inadequately lighted and ventilated.
- (d) the premises are not constructed so as to facilitate cleanliness and some are in disrepair.
- (e) the drainage systems are unsatisfactory and the supply of hot water is inadequate.
- (f) there is no lairage provided for the segregation of animals which are diseased or suspected as diseased.
- (g) the premises (being used for the slaughter of adult cattle) are not provided with a stunning pen. Further, these provisions cannot be made without the extension and reconstruction of the premises, which the limited and congested sites prohibit.

The Council does not propose to provide a new public slaughter house, it being considered that adequate facilities will be available for future needs.

#### REVIEW OF FACILITIES.

The details of slaughtering carried out within the Borough during the past five years are as follows:—

	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
1955	1923	35	2254	10821	Nil
1956	2174	141	3786	14411	Nil
1957	2667	115	4149	12840	Nil
1958	2123	10	3194	9596	Nil
1959	1694	21	3920	10725	Nil

The 1959 figures (calculated on the basis used for grant purposes) represent 57,018 units; the datum figures for an area having a population of 17,130 is 25,695 units, suggesting that approximately 55% of the meat slaughtered within the Borough is for export to the surrounding areas.

There is no reason to suppose that these figures will increase substantially and the slaughterhouses in operation after the appointed day (two of which will accept animals for slaughter on behalf of individual butchers) will be adequate to meet future needs, even if, because of the refusal of planning permission, the premises at Tinkers Drove are not made to comply with the construction regulations, and cease operation on the appointed day. The Marshland Rural District Council, the Wisbech Rural District Council and the meeting of representatives consulted have all concurred in this view.

#### RECOMMENDED DAY.

The Council recommend that the 1st June, 1961, should be the day appointed by the Minister for construction regulations to apply to all slaughterhouses in the district. This is the earliest practicable date which will allow sufficient time for the building of the new slaughterhouse; and be consistent with the achievement of adequate slaughterhouse facilities.

Since the submission of the report, the appeal against the refusal of planning permission in respect of the premises at Tinkers Drove has been dismissed.

At the end of the year the erection of the new slaughterhouse had still not begun and it maybe that a postponement of the recommended day will be advisable.



NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED DURING YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1960

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Sows and Boars
Number killed .....	1590	182	22	2640	9244	1304
Number inspected .....	1590	182	22	2640	9244	1304
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis:						
Whole carcasses condemned .....	11	8	4	6	47	14
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	297	53	—	32	502	104
Percentage of the number inspected affected by disease other than Tuber- culosis and Cysticercosis .....	19.4%	33.5%	18.2%	1.4%	5.9%	9%
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses condemned .....	—	—	—	—	2	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	31	8	—	—	207	85
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis .....	2%	4.4%	—	—	2.3%	6.5%
Cysticercosis:						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	16	2	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration .....	16	2	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—	—

Total number of animals slaughtered 14,982

QUANTITIES CONDEMNED.

Tuberculosis .....	4,298 lbs.
Other Diseases .....	24,818 lbs.
	<u>29,116 lbs.</u>

Cows .....	25
Calves .....	27
Sheep .....	8

KNACKERS YARD.

There is one knackers yard in the Borough with a small throughput. No live animal is admitted to the premises.

CARCASSES ADMITTED TO KNACKERS YARD YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1960.

Horses .....	14
Cattle (excluding Cows) .....	44

LICENCES TO SLAUGHTER AND STUN ANIMALS.

34 persons were licensed to slaughter and stun animals.

One animal food processing factory operates within the Borough which handles a considerable amount of unsound meat much of which arrives from abroad. Effective control is maintained in the handling of the products and frequent visits are made by the Inspectors. At all times the factory management has afforded full co-operation.



## FOOD SHOPS

The following tabulated list gives the number of the various types of food premises in the Borough.

Bakehouses .....	16
Cafes and Canteens .....	13
Grocers and General Mixed Stores .....	75
Greengrocers .....	18
Fishmongers .....	6
Fried Fish Shops .....	16
Butchers .....	30
Sweet Manufacturers .....	1
Food Factories .....	14
Wholesale Fruit Merchants (processors) .....	13
Flour Millers and Granary .....	2
Licensed Premises and Clubs .....	66
Ice Cream Manufacturers .....	1
Market Stalls .....	33
Confectioners .....	23

List of improvements and unsatisfactory conditions remedied in Food Premises.

Hot water provided .....	7
Wash-hand basins provided .....	6
Premises repaired .....	2
Floors repaired .....	1
W.C's. provided .....	3
W.C's. repaired .....	5
Drains repaired .....	1
Basement bakehouses abolished .....	1

## UNSOOUND FOOD.

The following foodstuffs, apart from meat in slaughterhouses, were found unfit and surrendered.

### TINS.

Meat .....	79
Fruit .....	74
Milk and Cream .....	17
Fish .....	21
Vegetables .....	53
Soup .....	3
Puddings .....	4
	<hr/>
	251

### VARIOUS.

Confectionery .....	162lbs. 1 doz. pkts.
Cooked Meats .....	1 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Fish .....	14lbs.

Bacon .....	17lbs.
Fruit .....	12lbs.
Sprouts .....	5 bags
Pork Pies .....	16
Sausages .....	12lbs.

### ANALYSES.

One sample of food was submitted for analysis:—

Sausages .....	Satisfactory
----------------	--------------

### ICE CREAM.

96 premises are registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955, 1 for manufacture, storage and sale and 95 for the storage and sale of ice cream. Most ice cream is sold pre-packed but contacts to impress the need for clean handling were made during the summer months with the various vehicles which run around the town during the evenings.

14 samples of ice cream, 1 iced lolly and 1 orange drink were submitted for examination during the year with the following results —

Grade I .....	12
Grade II .....	2
Iced lolly .....	Satisfactory
Orange drink .....	Satisfactory

### SCREENING OF FOOD HANDLERS.

Bacteriological examinations were carried out on specimens from food handlers during 1960. No positive results were obtained.

### FOOD POISONING.

Two cases of *Salmonella typhimurium* occurred during the year. These were not considered to be food-borne.

### ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING.

(a) Food Poisoning Notifications as returned to Registrar General.

1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Total
Nil	Nil	Two	Nil	Two

(b) Cases Otherwise Ascertained.

Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

(c) Symptomless Excreters.

Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

(d) Fatal Cases.

Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

The lack of cases is probably due to lack of notification.



## CLEAN AIR ACT

Throughout the year there has been good observance of the Dark Smoke Regulations by industrial and commercial users of fuel. During the year modifications were carried out to all the Lancashire Boilers at the large canning factory and the new automatic stokers should ensure elimination of intermittent grit deposits and irregular emissions of black smoke from the high chimney stack. One factory chimney along the quayside has produced more grit deposits and regular black smoke. Sufficient evidence has been given to the management to indicate need for early installation of mechanical firing and it is hoped that this work will be carried out during the annual 'shut down' in early summer.

In the year 1960 'Prior Approval' was given to the installation of two new furnaces and the heights of several new chimneys agreed.

## HOUSING

### (a) SLUM CLEARANCE.

The fight continues despite a set back in the lack of

new building. It is gratifying to be able to set out details which indicate spectacular juggling by the Housing Department so that 41 families were rehoused from unfit dwellings, with emphasis on clearing the Horsefair Area where redevelopment will eventually begin but not inclusive of any dwelling-houses.

No new Council built houses were completed during 1960 but the outlook for the future seems brighter now that more land has been purchased for municipal housing development, which in the next year will include 'Houses for Sale'.

### THE TOTAL PROBLEM:—

(i) Estimated number of houses remaining unfit for human habitation .....	453
(ii) Period of years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all houses in (i) .....	11

### FURTHER PROPOSALS FOR ACTION IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS:

Number of houses to be demolished in clearance areas and elsewhere .....	235
--	-----

## HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

Return for year ending 31st December, 1960

### A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED

#### IN CLEARANCE AREAS

Houses unfit for Human Habitation .....

Houses demolished	Displaced during year Persons	Families
—	6	2

#### NOT IN CLEARANCE AREAS

As a result of formal or informal procedure under Secs. 16 or 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957 .....

Local authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health .....

17	14	4
30	76	32

### B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED

Under Secs. 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957 .....

Parts of buildings closed under Sec. 18, Housing Act, 1957 .....

Number	Displaced during year Persons	Families
3	11	3
1	—	—

### C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED

	By owner	By Local Authority
After informal action by Local Authority .....	115	—
After formal notice under Public Health Acts .....	17	—



## Demolition of Unfit Houses took place at:—

### Individual unfit houses:—

164 Elm Low Road  
9 and 10 Horsefair  
31-36 (inclusive) Kirkgate Street  
47 Nene Parade  
118 Norwich Road  
1-7 (inclusive) Raithby Place

### Council owned properties:—

16 Albion Place  
1-8 (inclusive) Cunnington Square  
17, 18, 21 and 22 East Street  
29 and 31 Horsefair  
Flats, 1-5 Midland Counties  
22a, 22, 23, 24, 25/6 Sluice Row  
3 Virginia Waters

## HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959.

### (b) IMPROVEMENT OF DWELLINGS.

There has been a steady flow of applications for Improvement Grants, in the main for Standard Grants. The Council do not operate the Discretionary Grant Scheme to the full, but give consideration in respect of the conversion of large houses into self-contained flats or where it is necessary to add to an existing house to provide a bathroom or internal water closet.

### STANDARD GRANTS.

Applications received .....	33
Applications passed .....	32
Applications rejected — unfit .....	1
Applications withdrawn .....	1

### Cases in which work completed:—

20 applications for total of £2,127:7:9

### Amenities provided with the aid of grants:—

Bathrooms .....	19
Hot water systems .....	19
Larders .....	10
Wash-hand basins .....	19
Water closets .....	8

### DISCRETIONARY GRANTS.

Applications received .....	6
Applications passed .....	6

### Cases in which work completed:—

1 flat for total of £237:6:0

## RENT ACT, 1957

### RETURN FOR THE YEAR 1960:—

1. Number of applications for certificates .....	11
2. Number of decisions not to issue certificates	Nil
3. Number of decisions to issue certificates:	
(a) in respect of some but not all defects ...	4
(b) in respect of all defects .....	7
4. Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the first schedule .....	Nil
5. Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the first schedule .....	Nil
6. Number of certificates issued .....	7
7. Applications by landlords to local authority for cancellation of certificates .....	4
8. Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates .....	2
9. Decision by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants' objection .....	2
10. Certificates cancelled by Local Authority ...	8

## CARAVANS

It is a matter of duty to report success in the removal from Green Lane and Stow Lane all the old vehicles, tents and shacks formerly used for human habitation. In most cases it was necessary to obtain an order under the Public Health Act, 1936 from the Magistrates Court, authorising the Council to take active steps to stop these relics being used for human habitation. If demolition and clearance is the accepted method of eliminating permanent slums, so with shacks burning and clearance is the only practicable solution. Publicity was bound to stem from such drastic measures, but your Council were more than obliged to pursue this policy — one occupant was suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, one with scabies and chronic deformity another went down with chronic pneumonia.

The most creditable action in connection with temporary dwellings brought to an end the illicit use of shacks located on green droves. In future your officers will be able to deal expeditiously with itinerant caravan dwellers who likewise intermittently use these lanes.

More use is being made of licensed caravan sites within the Borough to the extent that it is fair to anticipate that existing sites are over populated according to the density set out in the Model Conditions of the New Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. It is too early to report in detail the likely implications of this Act. All site occupiers have been informed of the requirements and 1961 should illustrate the zeal or otherwise of site operators in bringing their sites up to standard. Unless some private enterprise develops additional acreage there is likely to be an overspill of caravans and the Council may be compelled to give serious thought towards the provision of a municipal site.



## HEALTH EDUCATION

Several lectures have been given to local organisations and illustrative posters distributed to food premises.

## NEW INDUSTRY

Problems arose from one or two new ventures in the local industrial field. Noise in particular caused complaints. Your officers made every effort to act as mediators in these matters. The nature of the complaints were:—

### (a) SAW MILL.

Large electric saw at timber mill operated during daytime only.

### (b) GRANARY.

(i) Electric ventilator on external wall of grain drying mill operated 24 hours per day when in use. Complaint made concerning noise during normal hours of sleep.

(ii) Grain conveyor operated for 24 hours per day when in use. Complaint concerned vibration during normal hours of rest.

### (c) CANNING FACTORY.

(i) Discharge of metal containers from railway wagons via an open race into canning factory, operated 24 hours per day. Complaints again concerning noise during normal hours of sleep.

(ii) Operation of incinerator for the disposal of trade waste often operates 24 hours per day.

Complaints concerning smell.

In all cases observations confirmed that some action was necessary and I can report that with the co-operation of the firms much of the trouble has been considerably reduced.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937 - 1959

It is regrettable that the Act still regards pail or earth closets as satisfactory and that the requirement to provide washing facilities is enforced by H.M. Inspector of Factories whilst the local authority enforces provisions regarding sanitary accommodation. Both are sanitary fittings involving drainage and in my view both should be the responsibility of the Public Health Inspector, especially as he is already responsible under the Food Hygiene Regulations for washing facilities in food factories.

## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 TO 1959.

### 1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority .....	24	13	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority...	104	53	4	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) .....	6	—	—	—
Total	134	66	4	—

### 2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of Prosecutions instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H. M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness .....	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation .....	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences —					
(a) insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable	3	3	—	2	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4	4	—	2	—



### 3. Outwork

<i>Nature of Work</i>	<i>No. of outworkers in August list</i>	<i>No. of cases of default in sending list to Council</i>	<i>No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists</i>	<i>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises</i>	<i>Notices served</i>	<i>Prosecutions</i>
Making of wearing apparel	1	None	None	None	None	None
Stringing labels	57	None	None	None	None	None

### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for 12 months ended 31st December, 1960

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Non-Agricultural				5. Agricultural
	1. Local Authority	2. Dwelling-houses inc. Council houses	3. All other including business premises	4. Total of Cols. 1, 2 and 3	
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	71	5551	1309	6931	176
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification .....	—	77	15	92	—
(b) Survey under the Act .....	71	569	85	725	12
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose) .....	—	132	54	186	—
3. Number of properties inspected (in Sec. II) which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats — Major .....	9	1	2	12	1
Minor .....	30	85	28	143	2
(b) Mice — Major .....	—	—	—	—	—
Minor .....	—	3	—	3	—
4. Number of infested properties (in Sec. IV) treated by the Local Authority .....	39	89	30	158	3



## WISBECH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

### AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number inspected by P.H.I.	Number inspected by M.O.H.	Number of Ships reported as having, or having had, during voyage, infectious disease on board
Foreign Ports .....	127	31,002 N.R. 61,917 Cargo	127	Nil	Nil
Coastwise .....	98	15,404 N.R. 41,804 Cargo	46	Nil	Nil
Total .....	225	46,406 N.R. 103,721 Cargo	173	Nil	Nil

### CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR

#### Passenger Traffic

Number of passengers — Inwards: Nil

Number of passengers — Outwards: Nil

#### Cargo Traffic —

Principal Imports: Petrol, oil, grain, sugar, timber, potatoes, bog ore.

Principal Exports: Grain, bricks, basic slag, coke breeze.

#### Principal Ports from which Ships arrive —

London, Hull, Rotterdam, Archangel, Gydnia, Kristianstad, Stettin, Guernsey, Gt. Yarmouth, Newcastle, Kirkwall, Fosdyke.

#### DERATTING CERTIFICATES AND DERATTING EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES ISSUED DURING THE YEAR FOR SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS.

This is not applicable as the port is not an “approved port” or a “designated approved port”.

Application has been made to the Ministry of Health for approval of the port for this purpose.











